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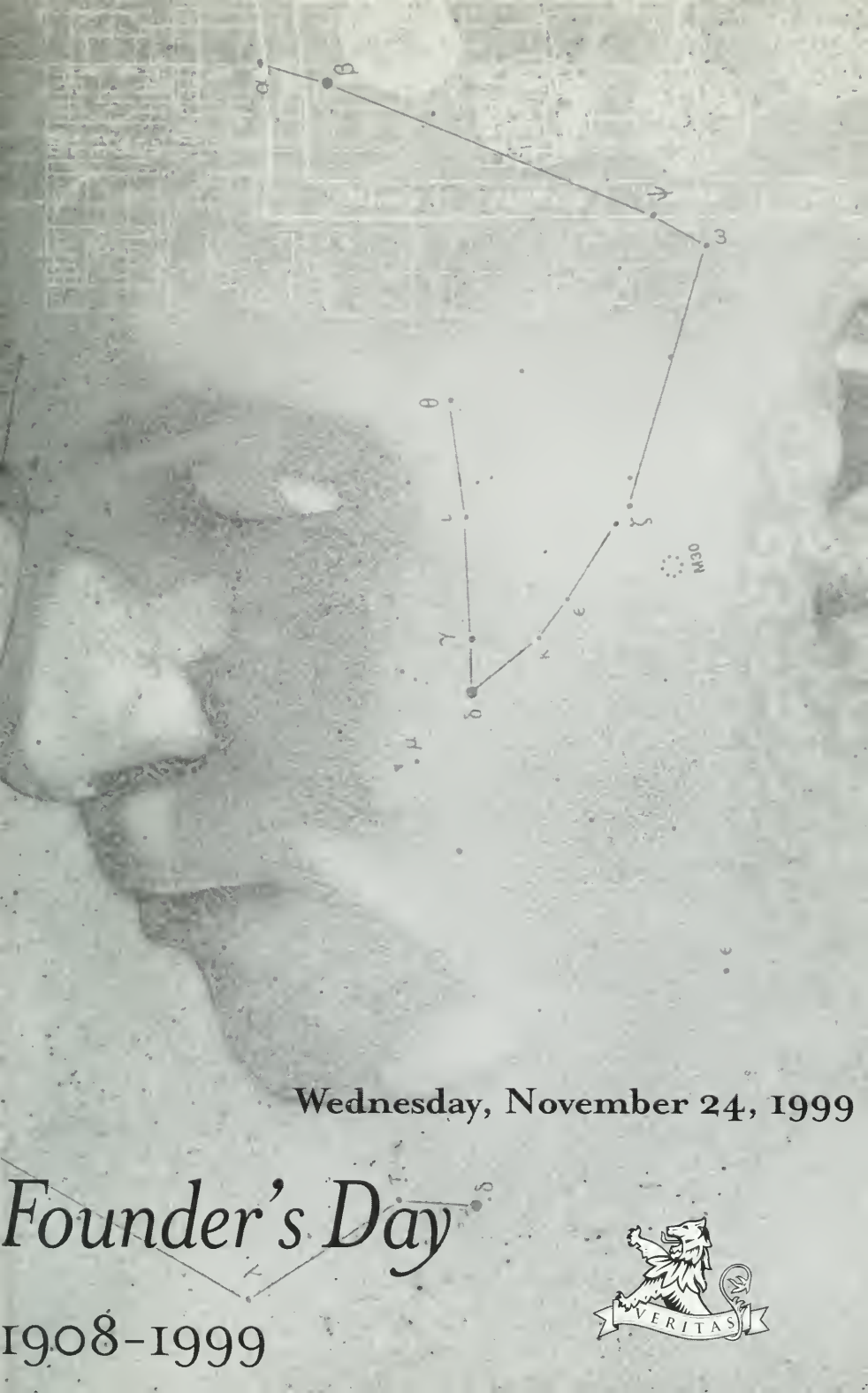

Wednesday, November 24, 1999

Founder's Day

1908–1999

VERITAS

Programme

Welcome

Mr. William Mitchell
Headmaster

Recognition of Volunteers

Presentation of the Speirs Medal

Remarks by:

Mr. Prosanto K. Chaudhury '91

Ms. Kathi Biggs
Colleague

Mr. Patrick Shannon
Colleague

Reverend Stephen Crisp
Friend and Former Colleague

Mr. William Mitchell
Headmaster

Presented by:

Mr. Michael Goldbloom '69
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Posthumously to:

Dr. Byron W. Harker

Accepted by:

Mr. Ken Bascom
Nephew of Dr. Byron W. Harker

Dr. Byron W. Harker

Speirs Medal Recipient - 1999

His true dedication to teaching is the legacy Dr. Byron Harker leaves behind. He inspired his students in so many ways. His gift to them—the ability to appreciate the beauty and power of literature, music and drama.

Born in Lethbridge, Alberta, and raised in Edmonton, Byron Wallace Harker came to Montreal in 1974. Following in the footsteps of his parents, who were school teachers, he embarked upon a career in teaching, and joined the faculty at Selwyn House School, where he taught English and music, and directed the school plays. In September 1979, Dr. Harker became the head of the English Department. His entire teaching career of 27 years was spent at Selwyn House.

He had received his Bachelor's degree in English from the University of Edmonton, briefly studied at the University of Accra in Ghana, completed his Master's degree at the University of Alberta and acquired his Doctorate in English Literature in 1979 from Queen's University.

Dr. Harker also was a member of the choir at St. Matthias' Church, and soon became good friends with Reverend Stephen A. Crisp, the organist and choirmaster. Reverend Crisp remembers his friend for his determination and hard work. During work on his PhD thesis, Dr. Harker discovered someone else had already covered his area of research. Wasting no time brooding over this bitter blow, Dr. Harker set out in another direction toward the completion of his Doctorate.

After a courageous battle with cancer, Dr. Harker passed away on July 4, 1999. He is survived by his brothers: Garth Leon (Verda), Dr. Laurence Ardell (Donna) and Michael DeBoc (Marilyn), and his sisters: Shirley Bascom (Wesley) and Marie Louise Matiaszow (John), as well as thirty nieces, nephews and their children.

Byron Harker will be remembered for his passion for thoroughness and commitment to excellence. Nobody believed in his students more than he did, and he strove to bring out the best in all of them. There was nothing he loved more than teaching.

Dr. Harker is truly missed by all those whose lives he touched: the staff, students, parents and alumni of Selwyn House School, and his many friends at St. Matthias' Church. His spirit and legacy, however, live on.

The Speirs Medal

The Speirs Medal is presented each year at Founder's Day to the person whom the Board of Directors of the School feels has made a significant contribution to the Selwyn House Community over the years.

Past Speirs Medal Recipients

1998
Mr. Alain Weber

1997
Mr. James Iversen

1996
Dr. Victor Goldbloom '37
& Mrs. Sheila Goldbloom

1995
Mr. Hugh H. Norsworthy '36

1994
Mr. Alexis S. Troubetzkoy

1993
Mr. Conrad F. Harrington '26

1992
Mr. Timothy R. Carsley '52

1991
Colonel John G. Bourne '32

1990
Mr. Robert C. Paterson '41

1989
Mrs. Patricia Marsh

1988
Mr. Edward M. Ballon '39

1987
Mrs. C.I. Markland

1986
Mr. William Hingston Daly '52

1985
Mr. Edgar C. Moodey

1984
Mr. F. Gordon Phillips

1983
Mr. David M. Culver '39

1982
Honourable G. Miller Hyde '17

Captain Algernon Lucas

Captain Lucas was born in England on November 7, 1879. He graduated from Selwyn College, Cambridge, in 1903, after which he came to Canada and taught at a school in Brockville.

In 1908, Captain Lucas started Lucas School with seven pupils in a small flat on Crescent Street. Within two years, the school moved into a house on Mackay Street.

Captain Lucas transferred ownership of the school to Mr. Macaulay in 1912, in order to pursue a career as an insurance broker. In 1914, Captain Lucas went to England, and secured a commission in the Life Guards. He was wounded in France and, whilst convalescing in Ireland, was killed by a sniper's bullet in 1916.

Mr. Colin Campbell Macaulay

Mr. Macaulay arrived in Montreal in September, 1911. He was an old friend of Captain Lucas, as they had obtained their degrees from Selwyn College at the same time. Mr. Macaulay taught at Lower Canada College for one year before taking over the Lucas School from Captain Lucas. It was the association of the first two headmasters with their common Alma Mater that led Mr. Macaulay to rename the school, Selwyn House.

Mr. Macaulay retired in 1929. He returned to England where he died in 1958 at the age of 83.

In this its 91st year, the school has grown to its present size of 561 pupils, and now occupies two buildings in Westmount.

In honour of Captain Lucas and Mr. Macaulay, and in celebration of the opening of the new building in 1986, two plaques were unveiled. The Macaulay plaque, donated by the graduates of '86, was designed for the new building, and the Lucas plaque identifies the main building.

Dr. Robert Speirs

Dr. Robert Speirs was Headmaster of Selwyn House School from 1945 to 1971. During this time, the school moved from Redpath Street to its present location. Furthermore, Grades 10 and 11 were added so that students could stay at the school for a complete elementary and secondary education.

Dr. Speirs was a wonderful person who touched all those around him. He impressed upon the students the value and pleasure of warmth in human relations. Dr. Speirs will be remembered as one of the great Headmasters of Selwyn House.

Selwyn House Association Board of Directors

1999-2000

Chairman: Michael Goldbloom '69
Christine A. Carron
John Carsley '67
Leonora Churchill-Smith
B. Edward Claxton '73
James Coristine '66
William H. Daly '52
Jeffrey L. Derevensky
France Chrétien-Desmarais
Bryan Fitzpatrick '74
John Hallward '78
Wendy A. MacDonald
Neil Matheson '74
David M. McEntyre

Old Boys' Association Directors

1999-2000

President: William H. Daly '52
Vice-President: Robert Keene '82
Secretary: Jonathan Herman '80

Michael Avedesian '88
Brian Ludgate '69
Paul Mayer '74
Michael Penner '86
Anthony Zitzmann '89

Chapters

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Brian Dawson '80
Malcolm Speirs '77

Boston, Massachusetts
George Sopel '86

London, England
David F. Skinner '82

Selwyn House School
95, Côte St-Antoine, Westmount (Québec) Canada H3Y 2H8
Tél: (514) 931-9481 Fax: (514) 931-6118
www.selwyn.ca